

2003P11403US
60426-621**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claims 21-23, 26-28 remain in the application, claims 24-25 have been cancelled and new claims 29-34 added. The specification has been amended to correct the minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The claims have been amended to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 21-23 were rejected as being anticipated by Stanley et al. (US 5,965,827) or alternatively by Miller (US 6,205,868). Further, claims 21 and 22 were rejected as being anticipated by Aoki (US 6,246,236). Claims 23-25 were rejected as being obvious over Aoki in view of Stanley et al.

Claims 26-28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 21 to include the limitation previously presented in claim 27. Further, Applicant has rewritten claim 27 in independent form to include the limitations in the base claim and an intervening claims. Accordingly, the claims are now in allowable form.

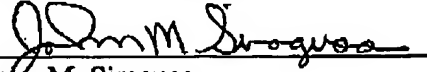
New independent claim 30 requires a sensor supported between first and second intermediate ends of a seat belt for determining a tension on the seat belt. Claim 31 includes the step of disabling air bag deployment responsive to determining that a child restraint device is present. Claim 32 requires that the sensor includes first and second attachment portions for securing the sensor to the first and second intermediate ends of the seat belt. Claim 33 requires that the sensor include a strain gauge supported on the tensile portion between the first and second attachment portions. Claim 34 recited that the seat belt includes a first end portion and a second end portion and the first and second intermediate ends are disposed between the first end portion and the second end portion. The prior art does not suggest or disclose a sensor supported between intermediate ends for determining a tension on a seat belt. No new matter has been added.

Thus, all objections and rejections have been addressed and the claims are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required, however, if any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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